

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 EB-07 COME-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IO-10

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO

RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE 4810

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 753

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: TRANSIT TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS--TELTOW CANAL

REFS: A) USBERLIN 591; B) USBERLIN 557

1. AT POLAD DISCUSSION APRIL 8 BRITISH PRESSED FOR EARLY
AUTHORIZATION TO SENAT TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR ON
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REOPENING TELTOW CANAL.
FRENCH INDICATED THEY NOT PREPARED TO GIVE AUTHORIZATION
UNTIL FRG AND SENAT NEGOTIATING DESIDERATA ARE CLARIFIED.
WE NOTED SENAT WAS PRESSING US FOR ELABORATION OF ALLIED
POSITION AND THAT WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR
ALLIES TO AUTHORIZE SENAT TO INITIATE TECHNICAL TALKS
WITHOUT PREJUDICING LARGER POLITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH FRG
MIGHT TAKE UP EITHER SIMULTANEOUSLY OR AFTER SENAT HAD
CLARIFIED TECHNICAL PREREQUISITES (SUCH AS COST AND WHO
WOULD DO DREDGING). POLADS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT ALLIES
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COULD NOT KIBITZ ON FRG TACTICS ON TELTOW WHICH IN THE
END COULD WELL BE LINKED TO ENTIRE GDR CHRISTMAS PACKAGE.

2. POLADS AGREED THAT, TO GET PROJECT MOVING, BRITISH
EMBASSY WOULD BE ASKED TO REQUEST CLARIFICATIONS FROM
FRG IN BONN GROUP IN FOLLOWING AREAS: WHAT IS BASIC FRG
OBJECTIVE ON TELTOW CANAL: WHAT ARE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE
CONDITIONS ON REOPENING, SPECIFICALLY IS FRG PREPARED TO
ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT (TTA) OR
EQUIVALENT REGIME FOR TELTOW TRAFFIC; WHAT IS TIME FRAME IN WHICH FRG
ENVISAGES DISCUSSING ISSUE AND WHAT IS RELATION OF THOSE TALKS TO
SUCH TALKS AS SENAT MIGHT HOLD?

3. HEAD OF SENAT CHANCELLERY HERZ HAS ADVISED US MITDANK
OF GDR FONMIN HAS REQUESTED AND BEEN GRANTED APPOINTMENT
TO CALL ON HIM APRIL 9. HERZ EXPECTS THAT MITDANK WILL
PRESS FOR SENAT POSITION ON TELTOW, BUT HERZ WILL HOLD
ONLY LISTENING BRIEF. INCIDENTALLY, HERZ HINTED A FEW
DAYS AGO THAT SENAT AND FRG CONSIDER THAT LESS DESIRABLE
ALTERNATIVE TO PUTTING TELTOW CANAL TRAFFIC UNDER TTA WOULD BE TO
PUT IT UNDER FRG-GDR TRAFFIC AGREEMENT OF MAY 1972.

4. EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT SENAT INSISTED SIGNATURE OF
SPANDAU LOCK AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT GDR WILLINGNESS
NEGOTIATE ON TELTOW. WE ARE INFORMED THAT GDR (ALLEGEDLY
AT HONECKER LEVEL) DECIDED MARCH 27 NOT TO SIGN SPANDAU
LOCK AGREEMENT FOR TIME BEING. WE WILL CHECK ON THIS
APPARENT CASE OF REVERSE LINKAGE. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRANSPORTATION WATERWAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL00682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750123-0499
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750465/aaaachsb.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 591, 75 USBERLIN 557
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSIT TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS--TELTOW CANAL
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GC, GE
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006